

John Coffee to Andrew Jackson, December 15, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL JOHN COFFEE TO JACKSON.

Mouth of Sandy Creek, December 15, 1814.

Major Genl. Jackson , I had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 11th lt. by express, this evening, and am gratified to learn the position I have taken meets your approbation, as the spot chosen was not selected untill the best information to be had, was obtained, the particulars whereof is more fully expressed in my report to you of date the 13th Instant by mail, which you will have recd ere this comes to hand. . . .

Inclosed I send you a report of my Brigade of the 13th Instant, since which time I have not had a report, the Regts. being still in Country forageing, for want of forage at this place, from report of my forage masters on the river, by tomorrow night I shall have delivered to me here, about one thousand bushels of corn, in two barges sent up the river for the purpose, if I had money I could purchase as much forage here, as I wanted at a very low price, but they will not agree to take drafts, at any price, the forage masters have been compelled to promise Cash before they could get any corn, since on the river; if consistant that I could have about 2 or 3 thousand dollars in money sent from the quarter masters department, it would very much save the credit of my forage masters in future, and would enable them to furnish me amply, and as I mentioned to you in my last, could I be authorised to draw drafts on the Q. M. at Orleans it would be much more convenient to the people of this Country that are disposed to sell in that way.

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Tomorrow I shall be able to call my Brigade together to this place, where I shall use every industry in my power to improve and instruct them, and will be always ready to receive your orders, and march when called for at the shortest notice; a number of the arms, are in bad condition, shall repair them as fast as possible, I have no amunition, nor am I advised if any at Battonrouge; will make the enquiry, but should there be none, I presume it must come from Orleans.

I have no information from Genl, Carroll, or the Kentuckians,¹ save only I am informed by Col Dyer (who has arrived here today) that Genl. Carroll would sail from Nashville on the 21st Nov. he also says abundance of rain fell in that country about the same time, therefore the river must be up, and they must be here in few days—no information neither of the corn coming down. I am glad to learn you feel secure from an enemy by the way of the Mississippi, as I cannot believe they can ever land at orleans through the lake, and should they attempt landing on this side, in the swamps, we would ask no better Christmass frolic, than cut them off from their Crafts, and never let them again embark, I cannot believe they will land at all. . . .

¹ The movements of the Kentucky militia may be partly understood from the following letter from their commander, Maj.-Gen. John Thomas, to Jackson, Dec. 8, 1814, dated at the mouth of the Cumberland River:

“ *Sir*: In obedience to the orders of the governor of the State of Kentucky I have taken the Command of the detachnt. of Kentucky Millitia destined to act under your Command I have now about 2300 men and officers who have been mustered into service, and will be ready to move at 4 oclock this evening, Our transportation (such as it is) is now ready, and our provisions are nearly all in the commissarys boats, and I presume that (without unforeseen Casualties) we may calculate on being at Natchez in 20 or 25 days, when I hope to receive your further orders”,